

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks.

Claims 27-40 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001301437. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Applicant has previously made mention of the fact that Applicant's independent claims 27, 31, and 34 along with dependent claims are directed to the anti-shift collar prior to a crimping operation to direct the Examiner's attention to limitations within the claims that cannot be met by JP 2001301437. That is, JP 20013001437 appears to be manufactured of wire which inherently fails to disclose or suggest at least the: elliptical outer perimeter; first clipped end; second clipped end; and polygonal inner perimeter portion limitation recited in Applicant's claims. JP 2001301437 simply cannot meet at least these limitations. Furthermore, the method recited in claim 34 also cannot be met by the JP 2001301437 reference as only a relatively thin wire-like member could be formed as illustrated in the Figures of JP 2001301437. Applicant's claim 34 also specifically recites in step (2) "crimping the anti-shift collar simultaneously in four locations." No such crimping is disclosed or suggested by JP 2001301437.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection based on the above remarks.

If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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